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RECPT #

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30 October 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: EPS/LG

VIA: DD/House Affairs, OCA

FROM:

House Affairs Branch, OCA

SUBJECT: HFAC STAFFDEL Verstandig/Lonie/Weissman

1. House Foreign Affairs Committee staffers Toni Verstandig, David Lonie, and Steve Weissman, will be travelling to Tunis, Tunisia, arriving there on the evening of the 17th of November and departing on the 22nd.

2. The same STAFFDEL travelled to Tunisia in August 1983. The STAFFDEL is interested in learning more about the prospects for political liberalization in Tunisia; as well as the prospects for a peaceful transition of power when President Bourguiba dies. They also want to examine the political developments in Tunisia over the past three years, including the government crackdown on labor unions, opposition parties, and Islamic groups. They will also like to discuss the military situation, including the recent threats voiced by Libya against Tunisia by that country to subvert Tunisia from within, along with Tunisia's relations and alliances with Algeria and France. As for the economic situation, the STAFFDEL is greatly concerned with Tunisia's continued economic decline and the degree to which this economic crisis intersects the political and security problems facing the country. The STAFFDEL will receive DDI briefings on all these related issues before their departure.

3. Toni Verstandig also is travelling to Paris, France on the 24th of November and has requested a briefing focusing on terrorism and diplomatic security. (Only one day is being spent in Paris.)

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